

OPTIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT, and DECISION RECORD FORM¹

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: OR-080-02-08

BLM Office: Cascades Resource Area
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, OR 97306

Proposed Action Title: Prospect Salvage Sale

Type of Project: Salvage of blown down timber adjacent existing roads and along property lines.

Location of Proposed Action: Township 10 South, Range 1 East, Sections 19, 21, 29 and 33, Willamette Meridian located within the Thomas Creek and Crabtree Creek watersheds. See attached map.

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan: The proposed action is in conformance with the following documents: *RMP (Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan)*, dated May 1995; *Thomas Creek and Crabtree Creek Watershed Analyses*, dated December 1996 and July 2001 respectively; the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and *Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, dated April 1994; and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, dated January, 2001.

¹ Pursuant to BLM Handbook 1790-1, Rel. 1-1547, 10/25/88, page IV-11, it is appropriate to use this optional form when all the following conditions are met: 1/ Only a few elements of the human environment are affected by the proposed action; 2/ Only a few simple and straightforward mitigation measures, if any, are needed to avoid or reduce impacts; 3/ There are no program-specific documentation requirements associated with the action under consideration; 4/ The proposed action does not involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources and, therefore, alternatives do not need to be considered; 5/ The environmental assessment is not likely to generate wide public interest and is not being distributed for public review and comment; and 6/ The proposed action is located in an area covered by an existing land use plan and conforms with that plan.

Purpose of and Need for Action: During a severe February 2002 wind storm approximately 500 trees were blown down. Some of this blow down was across existing roads and property lines. This project is proposed to open up the road system to provide for necessary maintenance and safety of road users. This project will also remove down Federal timber from adjacent private lands and reproduction. Finally, this project will remove down trees, which could provide a source of insect infestation to adjacent healthy timber.

Description of the Proposed Action: The BLM proposes to harvest the down trees using cable or ground-based equipment operated on existing rocked roads and ground-based equipment operated on designated skid roads, most of which are existing skid roads, between July and October of 2002. Most operations will take place on lands within the Matrix land use allocation. Operations in the Riparian Reserve land use allocation will be limited to the removal of trees or portions of trees located within 25 feet of the edge of the road prism (top of cut to toe of fill) of existing rocked roads.

Consultation and Public Involvement: Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, this project was consulted on with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under the FY2002 Programmatic Habitat Modification and Disturbance Only Biological Opinions, dated May 6, and May 16, 2002. Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service was completed under the Upper Willamette River Steelhead and Chinook Programmatic Biological Opinion.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the proposed action was listed in the April 2002 edition of the quarterly *Salem District Project Update* which was mailed to over 1,200 addresses. At the time of this mailing, this project was included as one of six projects included in the Roadside Salvage II CX (OR-080-24). Upon further field investigation, it has been determined that this project was larger and more complex than originally anticipated. No public comments were received in response to this scoping.

Affected Environment: The project area is located approximately 10 air miles southeast of Stayton, Oregon in Linn County on land administered by the Cascades Resource Area, Salem District, BLM. The project would occur within the Thomas Creek and Crabtree Creek watersheds in Township 10 South, Range 1 East, Sections 19, 21, 29 and 33.

The project area is within the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations, as identified in the RMP. Refer to Appendix 1 of this EA for a discussion of the potentially affected resources. The timber stand involved contains trees averaging 20 inches in diameter, 140 feet in height and 65 years of age. Certain portions of the stand (approximately 2 acres) received only scattered blow down while other areas of approximately 10 acres were heavily impacted. In the heavily impacted areas, the current crown closure is 15 percent.

Environmental Impacts: For a full discussion of the physical, biological, and social resources of the Salem District, refer to the Salem District FEIS. For a site-specific discussion of the environmental impacts of the proposed action which supplements the discussion in the FEIS, refer to Appendix 1 of this EA .

EA Prepared By: Robert Hershev **Date:** 5/28/02

Interdisciplinary Team:

Resource	Name	Title	Initial	Date
Cultural Resources and Soils	John Caruso Pete Hazen	Cultural Resource Technician and Soils Scientist	<i>PH</i> JRC	5/29/02 5/29/02
Hydrology/ Water Quality	Patrick Hawe	Hydrologist	PH	5/30/02
Botany TES and Special Attention (including Survey and Manage) Plant Species	Terry Fennell	Natural Resource Technician	TF	5/29/02
Wildlife TES Species	Jim England	Wildlife Biologist	JE	5/30/02
Special Attention (including Survey and Manage) Animal Species	Jim Irving		JAI	5/29/02
Fisheries	Dave Roberts	Fisheries Biologist	DAR	5/29/02
Wild and Scenic Rivers/ Wilderness/Recreation Sites/ Visual Resources Management / Rural Interface	Laura Graves	Outdoor Recreation Planner	LG	5/29/02
NEPA / Plans	Carolyn Sands	Natural Resources Specialist	CS	5/29/02


FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
and
DECISION RECORD

Based upon my review of this EA (Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-02-08), I have determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. I have also determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the proposed action, as described in the EA.

Protest Provisions: This decision is subject to protest by the public in accordance with Forest Management Regulations in 43 CFR 5003. Protests of this sale must be filed within 15 days of the publication of the notice of decision. For this project, the Notice of Decision will be published in the ***Stayton Mail*** newspaper on June 5, 2002. To protest this decision, a person must submit a written protest to Richard C. Prather, Cascades Field Manager, 17 17 Fabry Road, Salem, Oregon 97306 by the close of business (4:00 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time) on June 20, 2002. The protest should clearly and concisely state the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

Implementation Date: If no protest is received by the close of business (4:00 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time) on June 20, 2002, this decision will become final and may be implemented as early as July 1, 2002. If a timely protest is received, this decision will be reconsidered in light of the statements of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available and a final decision will be issued which will be implemented in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this decision or the BLM protest and appeal process, contact Bob Hershey at (503) 3 15-593 1 or Carolyn Sands at (503) 3 15-5973, Cascades Resource Area, Salem District, 1717 Fabry Road, Salem, Oregon 97306.

Authorized Official: 
Richard C. Prather
Field Manager

Date: 31 MAY 2002

APPENDIX 1

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-02-08

In accordance with law, regulation, executive order and policy, the Prospect Salvage interdisciplinary team reviewed the elements of the environment to determine if they would be affected by the proposed action described in Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-02-08. The following three tables summarize the results of that review.

Table 1. Critical Elements of the Environment. This table lists the critical elements of the environment which are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order and the interdisciplinary team's predicted environmental impact per element if the proposed action was implemented.		
CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Air Quality	Minimal Effect	Dust created from logging and hauling operations is predicted to be localized and of short duration. As such, the proposed action would have no adverse impact on air quality and would comply with the provisions of the Clean Air Act.
ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern)	None	There are no ACECs located within the project area.
Cultural, Historic, and Paleontological	None	There are no known cultural resource sites located within the project area. If cultural resources are found during the implementation of the proposed action, the project may be redesigned to protect the cultural resource values present, or evaluation and mitigation procedures would be implemented based on recommendations from the District Archaeologist.

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CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Native American Religious Concerns	None	
Threatened or Endangered Plant Species or Habitat	None	There are no known T&E plant species within the project area.
Threatened or Endangered Wildlife Species or Habitat	Based upon the potential for noise disturbance to northern spotted owl (NSO) habitat near the project area, the proposed action ranges from "No Effect" to "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" depending on the timing of the project. No habitat down grade is anticipated as a result of the proposed action. The project would have "No Effect" on designated Critical Habitat.	Most of the habitat in the vicinity is dispersal with some low quality suitable habitat in Sections 21 and 29. There are salvage sites within a quarter mile (disturbance range) of suitable habitat for the spotted owl. There are no known spotted owl sites within a quarter mile of the planned salvage.
Threatened or Endangered Fish Species or Habitat	"May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" on Upper Willamette Steelhead and Upper Willamette Chinook. "No Effect" on Critical Habitat.	The proposed action is located within the Crabtree and Thomas Creek watersheds which contains Upper Willamette Steelhead Trout and Upper Willamette Chinook Salmon, both federally listed as threatened. Since operations under this proposed action are planned for periods of dry weather during the summer of 2002, and no salvage will occur in riparian reserves other than some roadside material, degradation of water quality via sediment delivery to a stream channel is not anticipated. The effects to this element of the environment would be minimal.

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CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Prime or Unique Farm Lands	None	There are no prime or unique farm lands located within the project area.
Flood Plains	None	There are no flood plains located within the project area.
Hazardous or Solid Wastes	None	
Water Quality (Surface and Ground)	Minimal effect on surface water	Since operations under this proposed action are planned for periods of dry weather during the summer of 2002, degradation of water quality via sediment delivery to a stream channel is not anticipated.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones (Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 5/24/77)	Minimal	Since operations in riparian reserves would be limited to only those trees or portions of trees located within 25 feet of existing roads, impacts should be minimal.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	None	There is no wild and scenic river located within the project area.
Wilderness	None	There is no wilderness located within the project area.
Invasive, Nonnative Species (includes Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species, 2/3/99)	None	The proposed action is not predicted to result in an increase in noxious weeds and/or invasive, nonnative species.

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CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations, 2/11/94)	None	The proposed action is not anticipated to have adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.

Table 2. Other Elements of the Environment. This table lists other elements of the environment which are subject to requirements specified in law, regulation, policy, or management direction and the predicted environmental impact per element if the proposed action was implemented.

ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Land Uses (including mining claims, mineral leases, etc.)	None	There are no known mining claims or mineral leases located within the project area. The haul road through the project area is subject to a reciprocal right-of-way agreement . The proposed action is consistent with this land use.
Minerals	None	
Recreation	None	
Soils	Minimal	The proposed action would occur during periods of low soil moisture associated with summer conditions and equipment would be restricted to existing roads or designated skid roads. Consequently, the proposed action is anticipated to have minimal adverse impact to soil productivity.

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ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Visual Resources	Minimal	The project area is located within the Class III and IV Visual Resource Management category which allows for major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The proposed action is consistent with this classification.
Water Resources (including Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, beneficial uses, etc.)	None to Minimal	The proposed action would not retard or prevent the attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (see Table 3). The proposed action would have no effect on the following beneficial uses: Public Water Supply, Private Domestic Water Supply, Irrigation, Maintenance of Aesthetic Quality, and Recreation. As previously discussed in Table 1, the proposed action would have a minimal effect on the Wildlife and Fisheries beneficial uses. Additionally, the proposed action would have no effect on the following elements: DEQ (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality) 303d listed streams, DEQ 319 assessment, water temperature and water quantity, and would have minimal effect on sedimentation (see Table 1, Water Quality for more detail).
Coarse Woody Debris	Minimal	Although down logs will be removed with this proposal, an average of 240 linear feet of decay class 1 and 2 material per acre greater than 20 inches in diameter and at least 20 feet in length will be retained over the project area.
Bureau Sensitive and Special Attention Plant Species/Habitat (including Survey and Manage, and protection buffer species)	None	There are no known Bureau sensitive and special attention plant species located within the project area. Since the proposed action does not entail any "habitat disturbing" action, there is no requirement to perform pre-project surveys.

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ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Bureau Sensitive and Special Attention Wildlife Species/Habitat (including mammal Survey and Manage and mollusks)	None	There are no known Bureau sensitive and special attention wildlife species/habitat located within the project area. Since the proposed action applies only to areas disturbed by the wind event the habitat has been altered and is not considered suitable, therefore there is no requirement to perform pre-project surveys. Surveys for survey and manage mollusks and the Oregon red tree vole, however, had already been conducted within the project area and no sites were located.
Fish Species with Bureau Status and Essential Fish Habitat	None	Since operations under this proposed action are planned for periods of dry weather during the summer of 2002, degradation of water quality via sediment delivery to a stream channel is not anticipated. The effects to this element of the environment would be similar to that disclosed for listed fish species and their habitat.
Rural Interface Areas	Minimal	A portion of the project area is within a rural interface area. The nearest residence is approximately 1000 feet away from the project and not along the haul route. Truck traffic associated with the sale would result in increased noise along the haul route. Dust abatement measures will not be required because the road is paved within the rural interface area.
Coastal Zone (affect on "any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone." The determination of effects should include "direct, indirect, cumulative, secondary, and reasonably foreseeable effects")	None	The proposed action is not located within Oregon's Coastal Zone boundary and is therefore not governed by the Oregon Coastal Management Program.

Table 3. Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective Review Summary. This table documents the predicted effects on the nine ACS (Aquatic Conservation Strategy) Objectives identified on pages 5-6 of the Salem District Resource Management Plan, dated May 1995, if the proposed action was implemented.

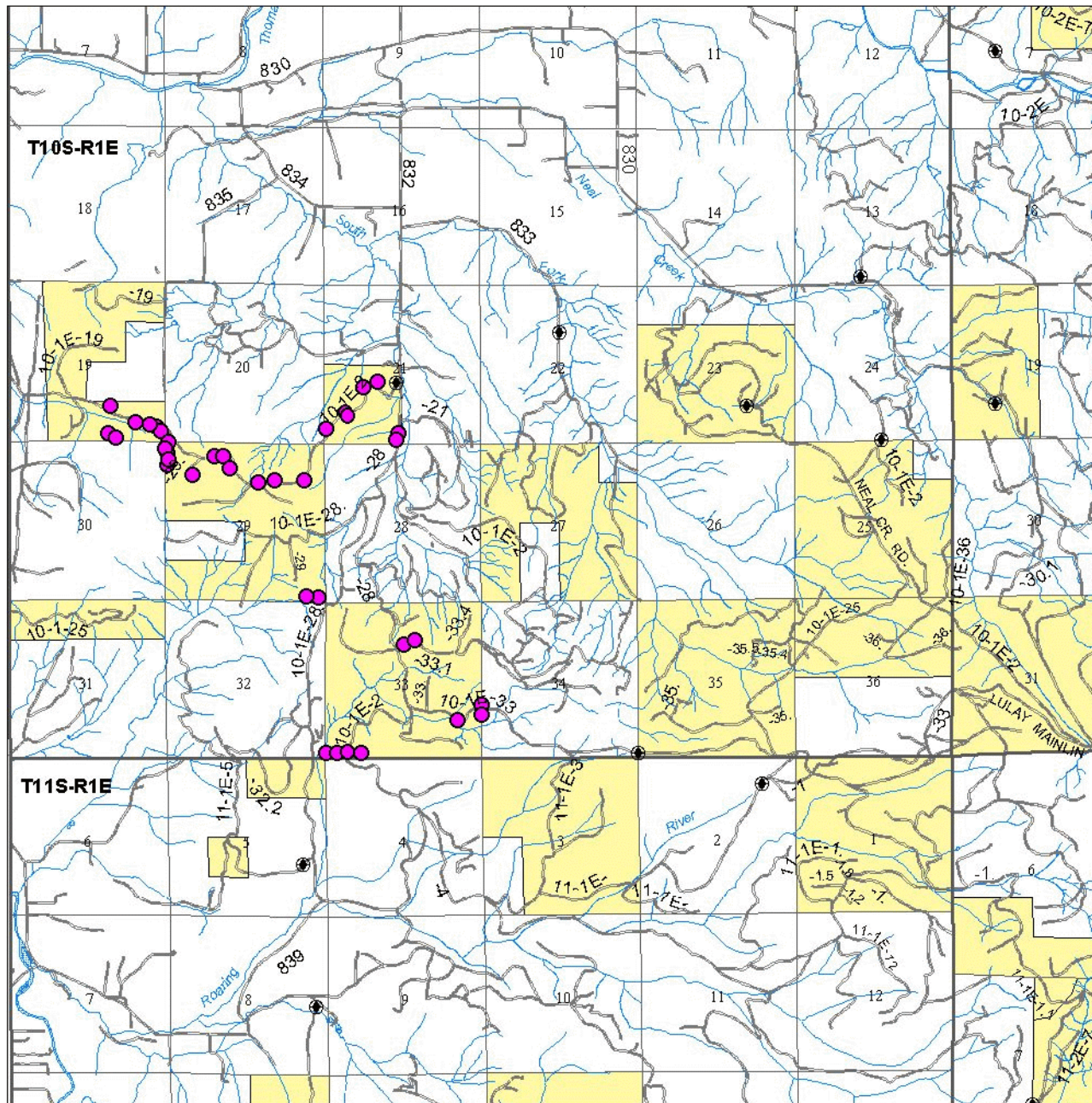
Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives	Does the project retard or prevent attainment of this ACS objective?	Remarks / References If yes, how? If no, why not?
1) Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of aquatic systems to which species, populations and communities are uniquely adapted.	Yes ____ No <u>X</u> N/A__	The proposed action calls for the removal of about 500 trees over some 12 acres and 2 watersheds. It is not anticipated that this removal will impact watershed and landscape-scale.
2) Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds.	Yes ____ No ____ N/A <u>X</u>	The proposed action would have no effect on the spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds.
3) Maintain and restore physical integrity of the aquatic system including shorelines, banks and bottom configurations.	Yes ____ No ____ N/A <u>X</u>	The proposed action would have no effect on shorelines, banks and bottom configurations.
4) Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems.	Yes ____ No <u>X</u> N/A ____	Since operations under this proposed action are planned for periods of dry weather during the summer of 2002, degradation of water quality via sediment delivery to a stream channel is not anticipated.
5) Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved.	Yes ____ No ____ N/A <u>X</u>	The proposed action would not affect sediment regime.

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Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives	Does the project retard or prevent attainment of this ACS objective?	Remarks / References If yes, how? If no, why not?
6) Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing.	Yes ____ No ____ N/A <u>X</u>	The proposed action would have no effect on in-stream flows.
7) Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.	Yes ____ No ____ N/A <u>X</u>	There are no meadows, wetlands, or floodplains located within the project area. As such, the proposed action would have no effect on this ACS objective.
8) Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, and appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration, and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.	Yes ____ No <u>X</u> N/A ____	Minor disturbances to plants within the riparian reserve is expected during harvesting, however, the scope of the project is small and should not affect overall plant communities.
9) Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian dependent species.	Yes ____ No <u>X</u> N/A ____	See response to ACS objective # 8.



Prospect Salvage EA # OR080-02-08



Legend

- Salvage sites
- Bridge
- Gate
- Townships Boundary
- Roads
- Streams
- Lake
- Cities
- Section Boundary
- Ownership - BLM

1:63360

cds 5/29/02



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